MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The proposal was made in November 1933 and the exact date of the acceptance may be somewhere about that time.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the reason why a proposal that was accepted in 1933 has been allowed to lie over till now ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : For want of funds.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that there is a large number of plough cattle available in the Nedumangad taluk ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : I have no fnformation.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Am I to understand then that Government are ignorant about the large number of plough cattle that are being taken away for sale in the several markets of the State ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Government are not aware that a large number of plough cattle are being taken for sale.

PRESIDENT : Are the Government aware that they are being taken for sale, never mind the number?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Then may I know, what was the particular reason for postponing the opening of the Veterinary Hospital in that particular taluk ?

PRESIDENT : The question has already been answered.

The Onam Holidays

30. *MR. T. P VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the representations made in both Houses of the Legislature that the number of public holidays in connection with the Onam festival be raised to 10 ; and

(*b*) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The subject is under consideration.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether the Government will take necessary action to raise the number of public holidays in connection with the Onam festival as in the case of Christmas holidays ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The answer to part (*b*) says that the matter is under consideration.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that the Hindu population of the State attach much importance to the Onam festival ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) ; Yes.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the total Hindu population in the State according to the last Census Report?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is given in the Census Report. I do not remember the exact figure now.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Are the Government aware that Onam is an important national festival for the whole State?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) That is a matter of opinion.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know when this question was taken up for consideration?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This subject was discussed in one of the sessions of the Assembly last year and since then it has been under consideration.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Am I to understand then that Government never thought of the matter before that?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was only when the matter was brought to the notice of Government they thought it necessary to take action. They have not yet come to any conclusion on the point.

The Aykad Bridge.

31. *MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have taken any action regarding the construction of the Aykad bridge on the Chengannur—Kozhencheri road;

(*b*) the nature and the result of the action, if any, so far taken; and

(*c*) whether the Chief Engineer has inspected the place and, if so, the date and the result of the inspection?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Division Officer, Quilon, has submitted to the Chief Engineer an estimate and plans for the construction of the bridge.

(*c*) Yes. On 11-9-1934 the Chief Engineer inspected the place and found it necessary to alter the site and modify the design.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether the Chief Engineer is aware that there were budget allotments in previous years for the construction of the Aykad bridge?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I believe there were.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): If so, when?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I cannot say.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Why was the work not carried out then?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): The design was not satisfactory and some modifications were necessary.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know what is the amount required for the construction of the bridge according to the estimate of the Division Officer?

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